

Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

"Learning is not attained by chance; it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence." ~ Abigail Adams



Friday, October 30, 2009



At the 2009 Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism, the IDOC was well-represented. Steve Hall, Jerry Vance, Doug Williams, and Dalton Haney led sessions talking about the Department's programming, job training, and re-entry initiatives. Keith Blackburn, a volunteer assistant chaplain at Pendleton, was presented with a Governor's Award for Service and Volunteerism in recognition of his work with the PLUS program. Miss America Katie Stamm from Seymour, IN, was the keynote speaker at the conference. After her speech, she was presented with a quilt crafted by Wabash Valley's PLUS Unit.

Sixty offenders at the Rockville Correctional Facility attended a day-long Alcoholics Anonymous retreat last weekend. Fifteen volunteers from three different states hosted the event, featuring speakers and small group discussions.

Director of Education Dr. John Nally was invited by the Executive Office of the President to be a member of a panel on correctional education at the White House Conference Center.

The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's PLUS unit recently donated \$1000 to the Sullivan County Humane Shelter.

Pendleton Juvenile held its quarterly Facility Assembly/Award Ceremony this week. Eleven students received their GED certificate, with one student receiving his High School diploma. Eight students also received Serv Safe Certificates. The guest speaker was Judge Jose D. Salinas, Marion Superior Court - Criminal Division.

Indiana State Prison's apprenticeship programs underwent a compliance review by the Department of Labor. All apprenticeship programs were found to be in full compliance with regulations.

Correctional Industrial Facility recently held a staff assembly, in conjunction with a chili cook-off and hot dog fundraiser.

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility held a career day this week, and offenders learned about the printing industry.

The Greene County Daily World interviewed new Wabash Valley Superintendent James Basinger, focusing on his ties to Linton, where he was active with Indiana National Guard recruitment.

Pendleton held a retirement luncheon this week to honor Correctional Officers Larry Liptow and Loren Hartley.

Levar Fisher, formerly a linebacker for the Arizona Cardinals, spoke to 50 students at Pendleton Juvenile. Mr. Fisher works for Sportsworld Ministries and travels the country talking to students about making positive changes in their lives.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a bake sale, with the proceeds going to fund the employee Christmas party.

Wabash Valley PIO Rich Larsen addressed the Terre Haute Rotary Club this week, providing a facility overview and taking part in a question/answer session.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility held an open house for supportive adults, family members, and students this week. Attendees had the opportunity to meet each of the student's teachers and support staff, tour the school, and see the students' work displayed throughout the building. 90 adults attended for 45 students.

Eighteen Administrative Segregation offenders at the Pendleton Correctional Facility who participated in a recent Kairos Ministry Program were honored during the organization's closing ceremony.

Interim Superintendent Latoya Lane held a staff assembly/pitch-in luncheon for the staff of PREF. Ms. Lane addressed recent subjects of interest with the staff and awarded the Making a Difference Award to Ms. Deborah Braun and the Employee of the Quarter to Mr. Randall Boys.

The Indiana University Parole and Probation class, led by professor Robert Bingham, toured Wabash Valley this week.

The Indiana Women's Prison held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony, themed "Thank you Beary Much." Each volunteer who attended the event received a stuffed bear made by the Offender Community Outreach Program.

Westville's offender band "Times and Tunes" presented its fall concert to over 500 offenders and staff. The band is led by professional musician and Correctional Counselor Hebert.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner